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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM The Today Show

STATION WRC-TV  
NBC Network

DATE June 12, 1986 7:51 A.M.

CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Former CENTAC Official Comments on Noriega Charges

J JOHN PALMER: Charges this morning that the military leader of Panama is deeply involved in drug-running underscores the difficulty in stopping the international drug trade. One man who knows about the efforts is Dennis Dayle. He once headed CENTAC, the former quasi-secret federal organization that pursued some of the biggest and least-known drug operators in the world. J He's also a key player in James Mills' new book, "The Underground Empire," which we've been talking about all this week.

What about these reports that General Noriega of Panama is involved in drug-trafficking, that he may have stashed a hundred million dollars in a Swiss bank account?

DENNIS DAYLE: That news was indeed not news to me. I have known then-Colonel Noriega since the mid-Seventies. And I found no revelations in the news as it broke this morning. I can only say that it certainly describes some of the activities of the Underground Empire.

PALMER: And it's not limited, certainly, to Panama.

DAYLE: No, indeed. And as a matter of fact, it is not limited at all. The global activities of the Underground Empire are expansive, they're pervasive, and I believe constitute a problem that should deserve a much higher priority than the one currently affixed to it.

PALMER: Now, you headed CENTAC....